

## Power to Change the World

**Romans 1:1-6** - *Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God<sup>2</sup> which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,<sup>3</sup> concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,<sup>4</sup> and **declared to be the Son of God with power** according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.<sup>5</sup> Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,<sup>6</sup> among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;*

Some scholars call Romans, “*the gospel according to Paul*”- the 5<sup>th</sup> Gospel. This so because we read,

- **Romans 2:16** - *in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to **my gospel**.*
- **Romans 16:25** - *Now to Him who is able to establish you according to **my gospel** and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began*
- **2 Timothy 2:8** - *Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to **my gospel***

Each of the 4 other gospels deals with specific facets of the story of Jesus. Mathew and Luke’s accounts of the birth of Jesus are usually read during this Christmas season. And we never cease to be fascinated by the story of the entrance of God’s Son into our world as a babe in manger. The Son of God enters our world seemingly vulnerable and frail.

Now Pauls’ Gospel (Romans) helps us understand that the Babe in a manger was in fact a powerful Jesus!

According to verse 4, Jesus was “**declared to be the Son of God with power**”

### 1. Power declared

- *Power – Dunamai:* Transcendent, superhuman, miraculous power and ability.
- *Declared to be* – That expression indicates that there was a divine decree over His life. He came as the Son of God with power. He was ordained to carry and manifest power, every day of His assignment on the earth!

**Acts 10:38** - *how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and **with power**, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*

### 2. Power defined

*Declared to be the Son of God with power* – one translation says “*defined*”.

- a) Power was to define Jesus – from His conception to His resurrection, the life of Jesus was defined by power and powerful events:

**Luke 1:35b** - *the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*

**Romans 1:4** - *and declared to be the Son of God with power ... by the resurrection from the dead.*

Power: from conception to resurrection!

- b) Interestingly the original Greek says literally, “*by resurrection of dead persons.*” And in fact, Jesus’ power also raised Lazarus, Jairus’ daughter and the widow of Naim’s son, from the dead.

Also, when Jesus yielded up His spirit on the cross, we read,

**Matthew 27:52** - *and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.*

Jesus was defined as the Son of God with power!

- c) Paul prayed that we would have a revelation of such power:

**Ephesians 1:19-20** - *and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power<sup>20</sup> which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places*

### **3. Power was to define the Son just as ‘power’ also defined the Father.**

**Matthew 26:64** - *Jesus said to him, “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”*

- a) Here the Father is called “the POWER” (*Dynameos*: mighty power. This word denotes dignity and majesty).

What a picture of the Father and the Son sitting together and sharing in the same powerful nature. Jesus was quoting Psalms 110:

**Psalms 110:1** - *The Lord [Yahweh] said to my Lord [Adonai], “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”*

- b) He was a babe in a manger, yet authority and government were upon His shoulders!

**Isaiah 9:6** - *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, **Mighty God**, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

#### 4. The power that defined Jesus and the Father also defines the Gospel

In this same chapter 1 of Romans, verse 16, the Gospel is defined as “*the power of God unto salvation*”

**Romans 1:16** - *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the **power** of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

**1 Corinthians 1:18** - *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the **power** of God.*

There is tremendous power in the simplicity of this message, just like there was tremendous power in the simplicity of the Babe in the manger.

#### 5. Power from the Holy Spirit

Let us go back to our opening text, to **verses 3 and 4**:

*3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with **power according to the Spirit of holiness** [that is how the Jews referred to the Holy Spirit]*

“*Power according to the Spirit of holiness*”

- a) According to the flesh Jesus came from the lineage of David. The Gospel of Matthew describes that lineage.
- b) However, Paul in his gospel says that Jesus came with power according to the Holy Spirit.

Jesus wasn't born of the seed of a man but as the angel explained to Mary, it was by intervention of the Holy Spirit:

**Luke 1:35b** - *The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*

#### A few concluding thoughts

I want to end by saying that God left this same power on earth for us. In the same book of Romans, we read:

**Romans 15:18-19** - *For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient— <sup>19</sup> in mighty signs and wonders, by the **power of the Spirit of God**, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.*

- The same Holy Spirit that was there with Jesus, is here with us today

- Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit; we are born again by the same Spirit (John 3:5-8)
- Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power; Jesus said, “*You shall receive power when the Holy spirit has come upon you*” (Acts 1:8)

You may say, “pastor that is only for people with a calling. Romans 1: 1 says *Paul, called to be an apostle*. And that is not me”.

However, look at the **Verse 6**: “*among whom you also are called of Jesus Christ*”.

We are also called of Jesus, all of us.

Just like Jesus came full of power, God wants us His sons and daughters, full of the exact same power.

The Christmas story is such evidence of God’s power. In the little body of this special Babe in a manger there was a power capable of changing the world.